



The ASF concert of Venezuelan virtuosos Simon Gollo and Abraham Abreu was a delight for their Aruban audience

On Friday the auditorium of the Cas di Cultura was filled with the music of Brahms, Beethoven and Mozart as two world-class musicians, Simon Gollo on the violin and Abraham Abreu on the piano graced the stage as a duet for the very first time. This historic occasion was for the benefit of the Aruba Scholarship Foundation, for which the two virtuosos donated their talent, in an effort to raise funds that will assist Aruban students to study abroad. The board of trustees of the Aruba Scholarship Foundation, including Clyde R. Harms, President and instrumental in realizing this concert, were joined in the audience by The Minister of Culture, Ramon Lee and his wife, and one of Aruba's most famous musicians, Padu Lampe and his daughter, Vivian.

Friday night's concert was truly a delight, a mix of many moods consisting of Sonata for Piano and Violin in B Flat Major, K454 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Sonata for Piano and Violin in G Major, Opus 30 #3 by Ludwig van Beethoven, and Sonata for Piano and Violin in B Minor, Opus 108 by Johannes Brahms. For aficionados of classical music it was a surfeit of riches, as the two accomplished musicians demonstrated why virtuoso talents keep the love of classical music alive. The mixing of the two instruments and generations was a perfect melding of the experience of Abreu and a fresh attitude toward the traditional from child prodigy Gollo.

Veterans of the Festival y Academia Nuevo Mundo, (FANM) which has been held annually in Maracaibo every August and attracts a stellar program of international performers, they graciously consented to this charitable event. Abreu, noted not only for his performance on the piano is an accomplished harpsichordist, and professor of music at Central University of Venezuela and the Bolivar University. Simon Gollo has been winning international music competitions since the age of thirteen, and at twenty co-founded the annual FANM, participating in many of the workshops. At only twenty-five, he holds the title of "Virtuoso" and Soloist from the Superior Music Conservatory of Geneva. The first Venezuelan to do so. When listening to classical music, one can either close their eyes and be immersed in it, or study the performers, and watching Abraham Abreu's fingers fly across the keyboard in practiced precision was fascinating. Simon Gollo was an example of a musician completely caught up in his music, his facial expressions and body language further emphasizing the melody he produced with his bow and finger work over the strings. This was a rare and special delight for the audience, and the two musicians came to the island with the hope of perhaps founding an annual classical music festival in Aruba that will feature internationally renowned performers on stage with Aruban musicians. This past week they have been meeting with various individuals towards that end. Hopefully, with the success of last night's concert Aruba will see this realized.